

01

Yukihiko Kajimoto

AYANASHI

AYANASHI

01

Yukihiro Kajimoto

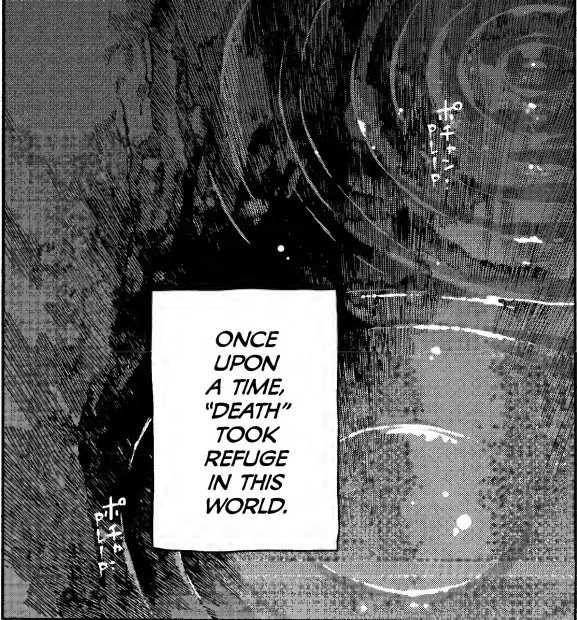


01 CONTENTS

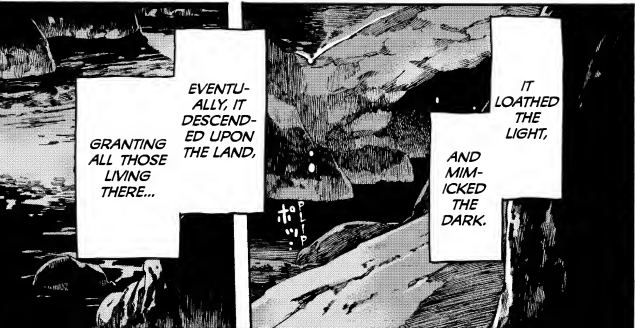
Chapter 1 /
The Boy from the Surface 3

Chapter 2 /
Those Who Band Together 77

Chapter 3 /
Monster 147



ONCE
UPON
A TIME,
"DEATH"
TOOK
REFUGE
IN THIS
WORLD.



GRANTING
ALL THOSE
LIVING
THERE...

EVENTU-
ALLY, IT
DESCEND-
ED UPON
THE LAND,

IT
LOATHED
THE
LIGHT,

AND
MIM-
ICKED
THE
DARK.



"THE
POWER
TO KILL
OTH-
ERS."

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM





HIM
...

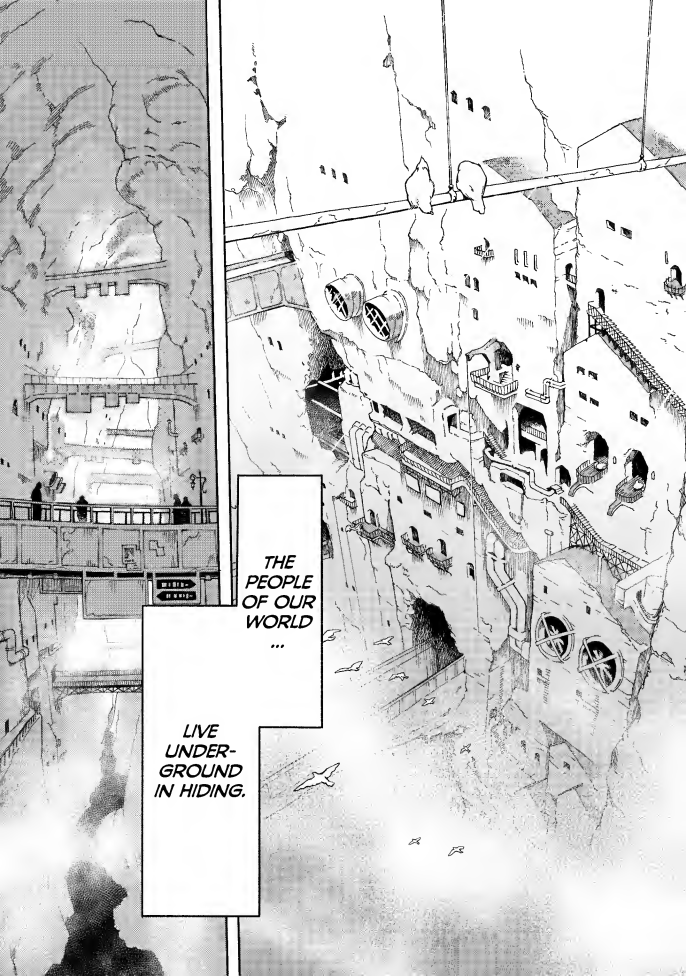


IT'S SAID THAT
EVER SINCE,
INSECTS,
BEASTS, AND
HUMANS
ALIKE LOST
THE ABILITY
TO LIVE FOR-
EVER.

I'LL...
KILL
HIM...

Chapter 1
The Boy from the Surface





*THE
PEOPLE
OF OUR
WORLD*

...

*LIVE
UNDER-
GROUND
IN HIDING.*



WHICH
CAN'T BE
KILLED
NO
MATTER
WHAT
WEAPONS
YOU USE.

SUPPOSED-
LY THAT'S
BECAUSE
THERE ARE
MONSTERS
ON THE
SURFACE
CALLED
"OGRES,"

ラカ
ラ
ラ

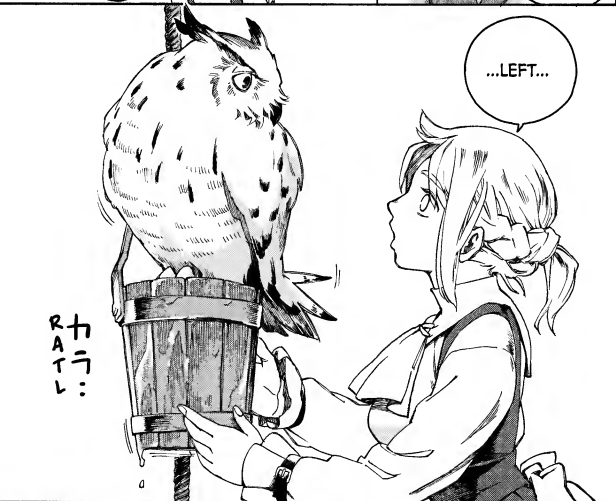
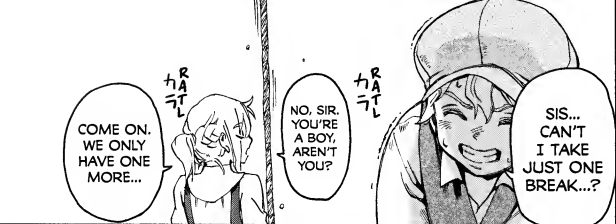
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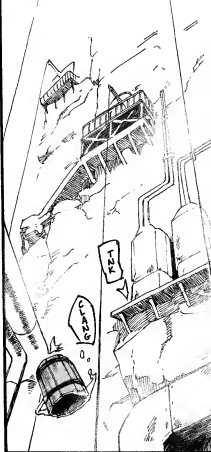


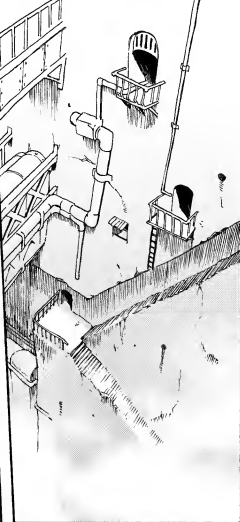
KEEP IT UP,
TORIN! JUST
LIKE THAT.

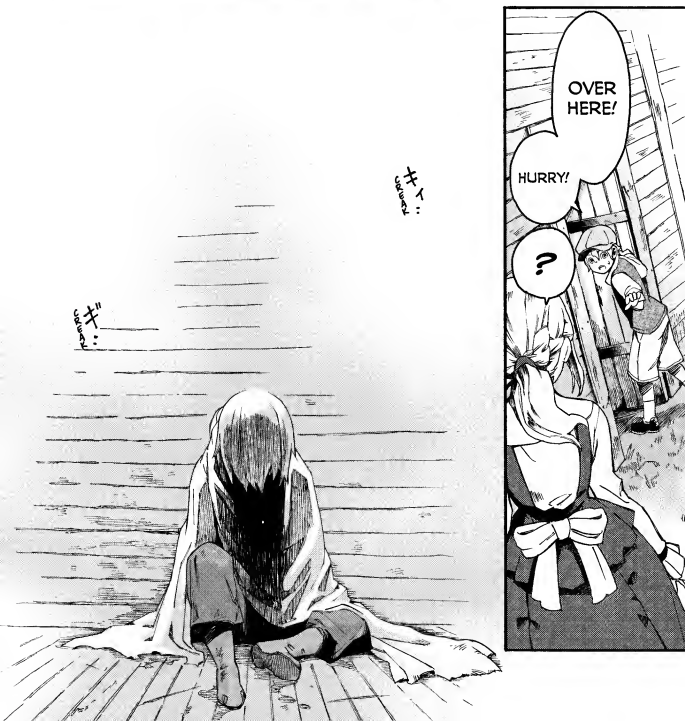
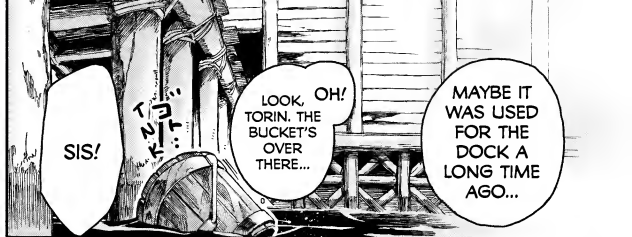
HRR...

カ
ラ
ラ
カ
ラ
ラ











IS HE
DEAD...?



BUT HE'S
BADLY
INJURED.

NO...

スッ!
スッ!



O-
OKAY!

RUN UP-
STAIRS AND
FETCH SOME
HOT WATER,
TORIN!

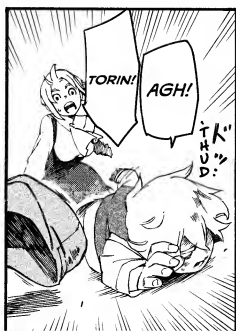


THOUGH,
I MUST
SAY,

HIS HAIR'S
AWFULLY
MESSY...

フ
イ
ト
:











STAY AWAY
FROM HIM,
YOU HEAR
ME?



CRUNCH



DIDN'T YOU
SEE
HIS
EYES?!
THEY
WEREN'T
NORMAL!

B-BUT HE'S
HURT. AND
HE ONLY HIT
ME BECAUSE
I GOT TOO
CLOSE ALL
OF A-



BUT I
THOUGHT
PEOPLE
COULDN'T
LIVE UP
THERE
BECAUSE
OF THE
OGRES...

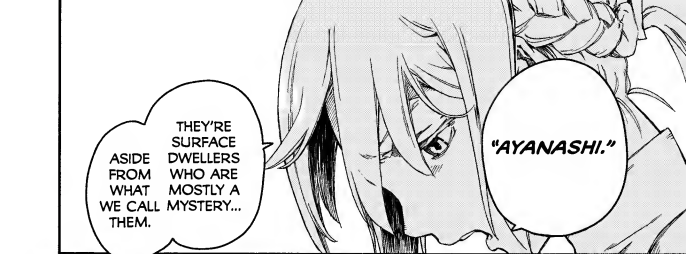
THE
SUR-
FACE
?!



I'M SURE
HE DRIFTED
DOWN HERE
FROM THE
SURFACE ON
AN UNDER-
GROUND
RIVER.



HE WAS
SOAKED TO
THE BONE,
TOO...



THEY'RE
SURFACE
DWELLERS
WHO ARE
MOSTLY A
MYSTERY...
ASIDE
FROM
WHAT
WE CALL
THEM.

"AYANASHI."



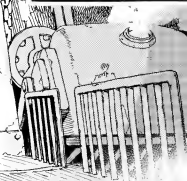
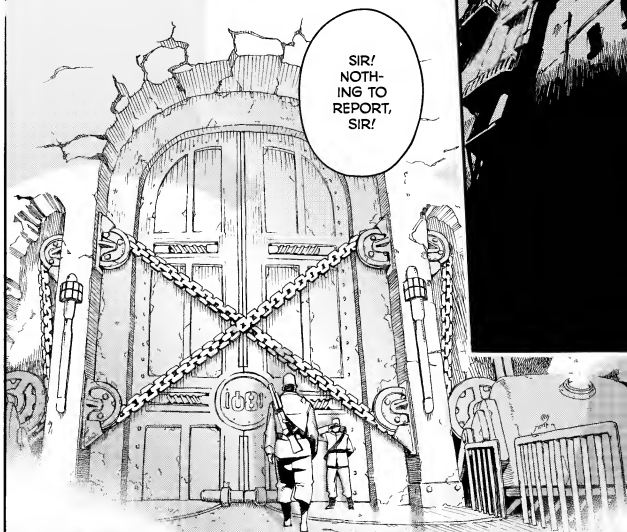
I USED TO
HEAR ABOUT
THEM A LOT
WHENEVER
I GOT IN
TROUBLE AS
A KID.

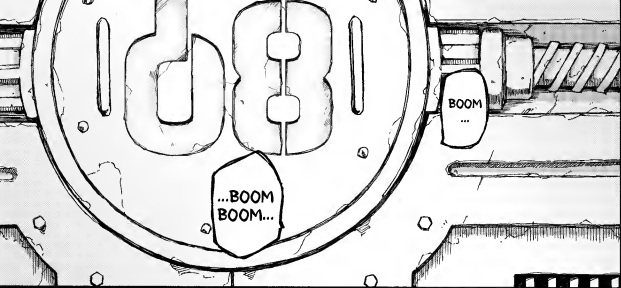
BAD
CHILDREN
WHO HURT
OTHERS ARE
CHASED
ONTO THE
SURFACE,
WHERE
THEY
BECOME
AYANASHI.

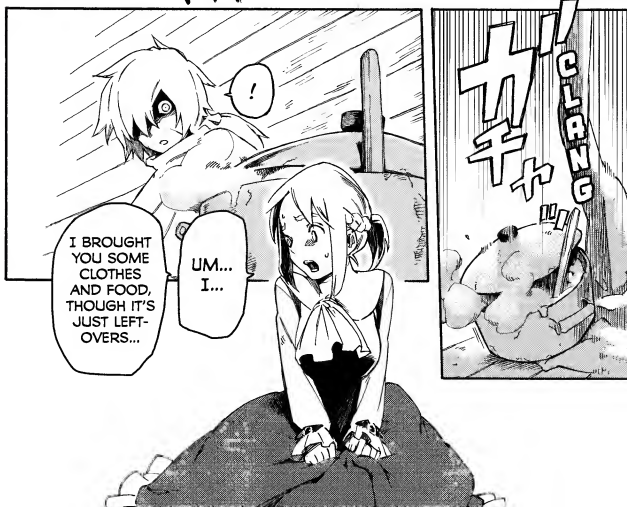
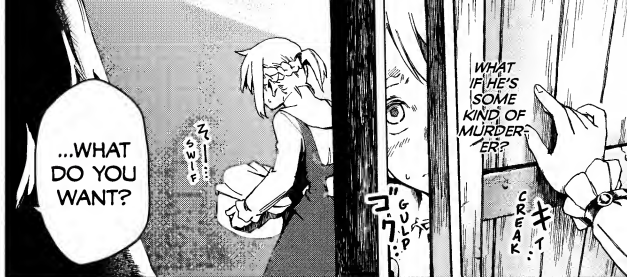


IT'S SO
BRIGHT...

...









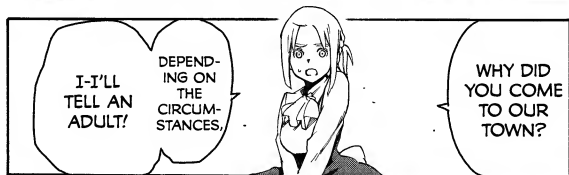
AN
**AYA-
NASHI,**
AREN'T
YOU?

YOU'RE...



MY
BROTHER...

PROM-
ISED
YOU,
AFTER
ALL.



I-I'LL
TELL AN
ADULT!

DEPEND-
ING ON
THE
CIRCUM-
STANCES,

WHY DID
YOU COME
TO OUR
TOWN?



I
HAVE...

HUH?

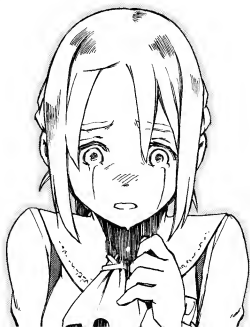
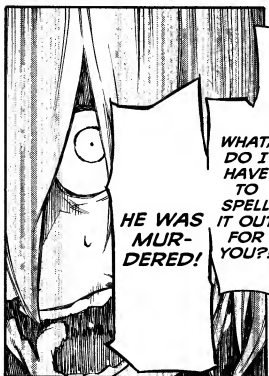
...TO
AVENGE
MY LITTLE
BROTHER.

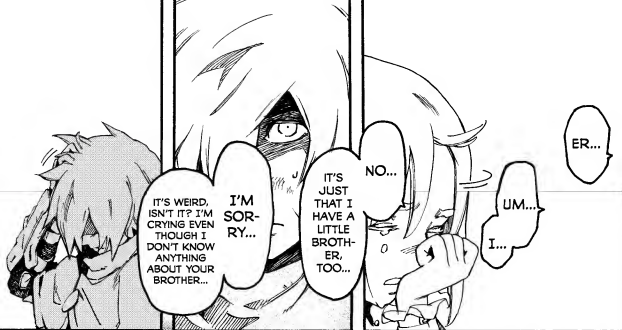


DON'T
WORRY.

I'LL LEAVE
AS SOON
AS MY
WOUNDS
HEAL.









HUH?



I'M...

...AFRAID OF
PEOPLE.



WHAT...?
THEN, THE
REASON HE
HIT TORIN
WAS...



I KNOW IT
SOUNDS
RIDICU-
LOUS...

I CAN'T
STAND...
BEING
TOUCHED.



HAVE
YOU...

ALWAYS
BEEN THAT
WAY?

SO, I WENT
TO THE SUR-
FACE AND
BECAME AN
AYANASHI.



BUT IT WAS
THE REASON I
WASN'T ABLE TO
LIVE IN TOWN
ANYMORE.

NO...

HE SAID
HE'D STAY
WITH ME
UNTIL I
COULD
REJOIN
SOCIETY.

I
COULDN'T
TALK HIM
OUT OF IT.



MY LITTLE
BROTHER
DECIDED TO
COME WITH
ME.

AND FOR
SOME
REASON,



...SUPPOSED
TO PROTECT
HIM, AND
YET...

I WAS...







The
Next
Day

AND SO,

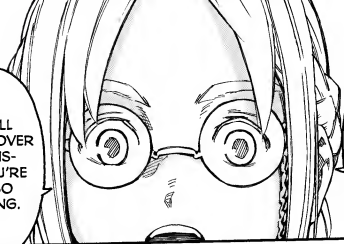
ドゥ
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ドゥ
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:

STARTING
TODAY, WE'LL
BE GIVING
YOU A CRASH
COURSE!

I MEAN
WE'RE GOING
TO PRACTICE
FOR YOUR
**REINTEGRA-
TION TO
SOCIETY.**

...WHAT?





BUT YOU'LL
NEVER WIN OVER
THE TOWNS-
FOLK IF YOU'RE
ALWAYS SO
INTIMIDATING.

UNDER-
STAND? WE
SAID WE'D
HELP,



IT MAKES
IT HARD TO
TELL WHAT
YOU'RE
THINKING.

YOU
LOOK SO
STERN.

LET'S
START
WITH
THAT
GLARE.
NO, YOUR
EXPRES-
SION IN
GENERAL.

I SAID
I...

WAIT...

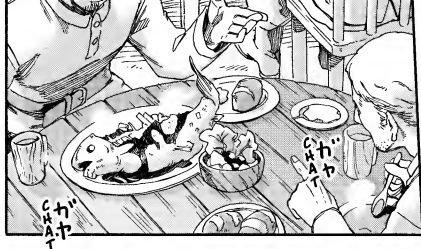


SIS WON'T
LISTEN ONCE
HER MIND'S
MADE UP.

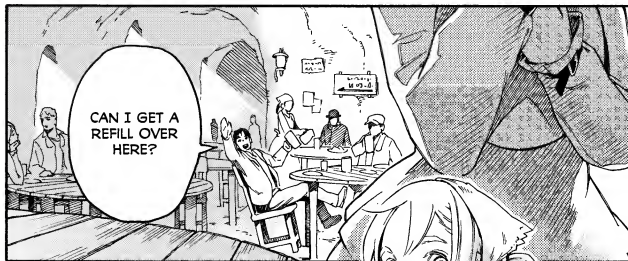


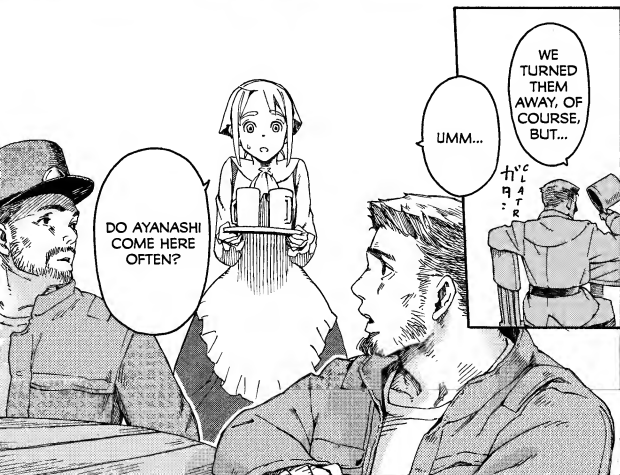
IF YOU WANT
SOMEONE TO SMILE,
THEN YOU HAVE TO
SMILE FIRST...

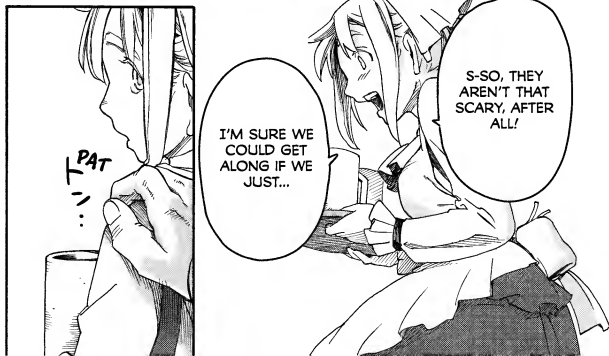
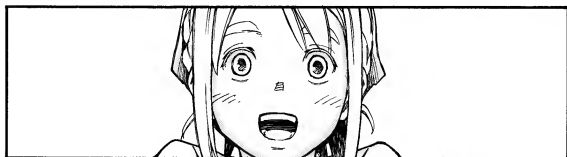
PEOPLE ARE
JUST A REFLEC-
TION OF OUR-
SELVES!



Several
Days
Later

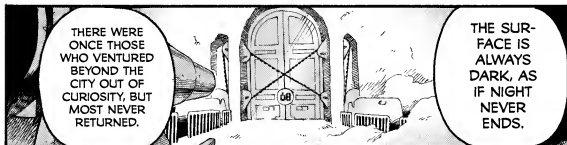








I APOLOGIZE
FOR MY SUB-
ORDINATE'S
MISLEADING
COMMENTS.



THERE WERE
ONCE THOSE
WHO VENTURED
BEYOND THE
CITY OUT OF
CURIOSITY, BUT
NEVER
RETURNED.

THE SUR-
FACE IS
ALWAYS
DARK, AS
IF NIGHT
NEVER
ENDS.



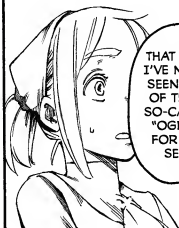
...COVERED
IN THE BLACK
STAINS OF
DRIED BLOOD.

...DRAPED
IN THEIR
DIRTY
CLOAKS...

REGARD-
LESS,
THEY CONTIN-
UE TO
VISIT...



GOD
KNOWS
WHERE
THEY GO
OR WHAT
THEY DO.



THAT SAID,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN ONE
OF THESE
SO-CALLED
"OGRES"
FOR MY-
SELF.



ONE THING'S
FOR CERTAIN.
THEY LIVE IN
A COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
WORLD.





WH-WHAT
WAS THAT?



IT CAME FROM ABOVE?

10
11
12

SHAKE

SHAKE
K" "



オ

M







still
ER-R-!

?!
BOK
TO
M
KRAK:
BRRK
CRAK:
ZHS ZHS ZHS
KYAAAAAH!

KYAAAAAH!

KRAK:
BRRK
CRAK:
ZHS ZHS ZHS
KYAAAAAH!





WHY'S
IT DARK
ONLY OVER
THERE?

WHAT'S
THAT...?



HEY, WAIT...



**THAT'S
CLOSE TO
WHERE
SIS
WORKS!**

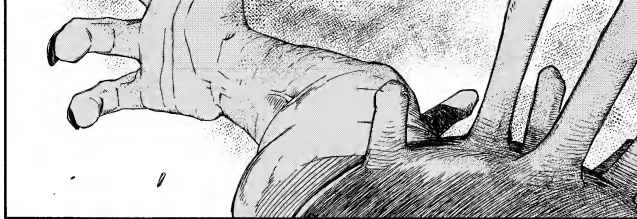


HUH?

DON'T
COPY
WHAT I'M
ABOUT TO
DO.

TORIN.





U
W
A
A
A
H
!

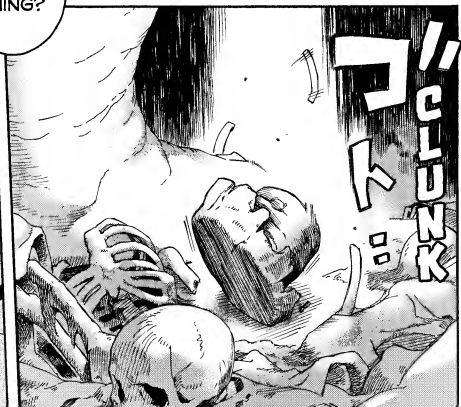








WHAT...
IS THAT
THING?

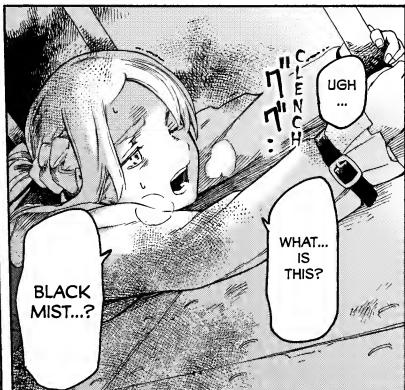
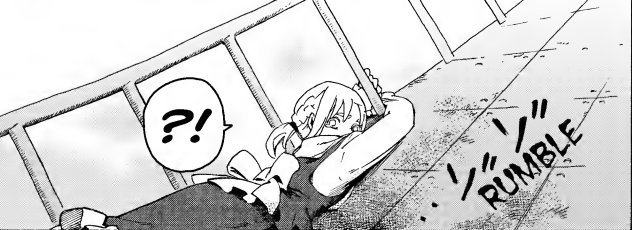


**SO,
THAT'S...**

...AN
OGRE.

НАААН.

F=U









STAND
BACK,
SIERRA.





THEY'RE
"DEATH"
INCARNATE.

CANNONS
WON'T KILL
THEM!











**IT'S DAN-
GEROUS!
RUN!**



**I KNEW IT...
THE MIST
IS STILL
AFFECTING
HIM!**

HOLO?!



**H
R
A
A
A
A
H
!**



UWOOOHH!

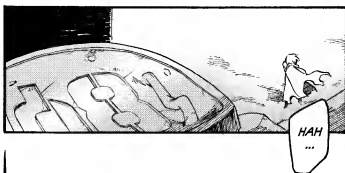
W
H
SH

SH
ZU

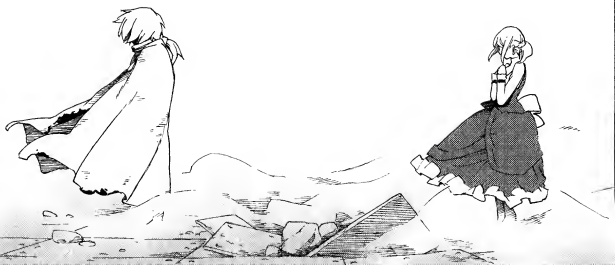
SH
ZU





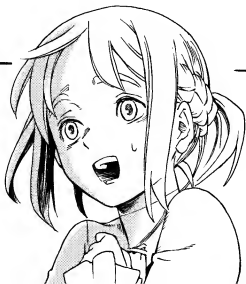


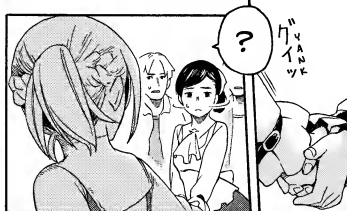
HOLO...

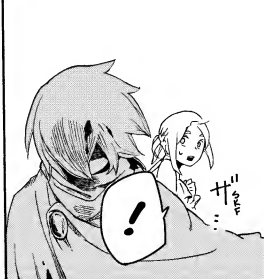


UM...

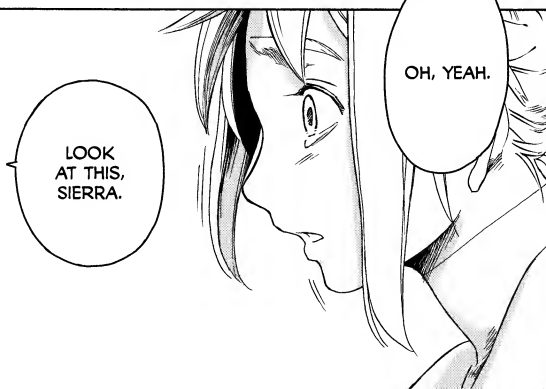
I...







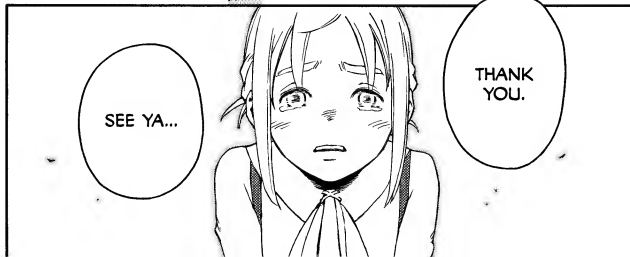
HOLO...



LOOK
AT THIS,
SIERRA.



**...IT'S THE
RESULT
OF YOUR
TRAINING.**



SEE YA...

THANK
YOU.



YOU
DUMMY
...

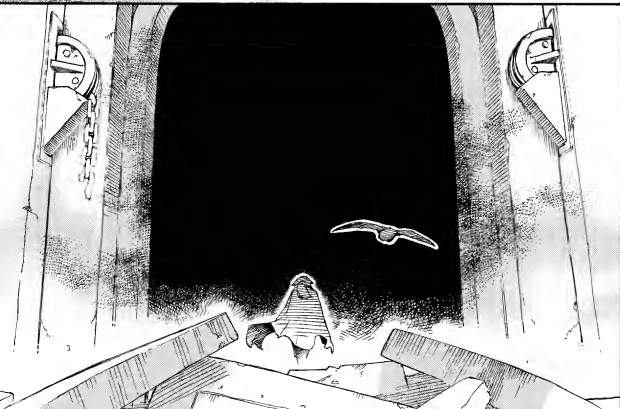


WHAT
WAS
THAT...?

IF
L
A
P



YOU
CALL
THAT A
SMILE...?





コウイチ

WELL,
GO,
HUGO.

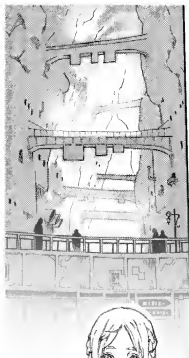
FOOT



**BACK
TO THE
SUR-
FACE.**

FLAP

AYANASHI

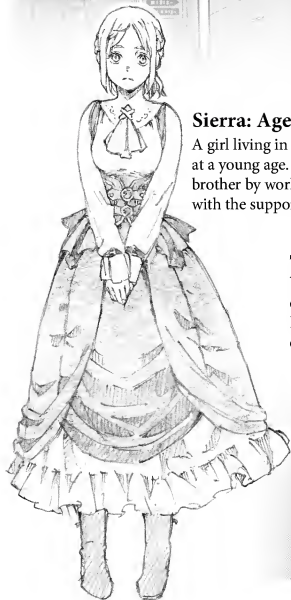


Grotto 68: Pista

A town carved out of the chasm walls left behind by an underground river. Relatively advanced technologically, with steam-powered machines in common use. Unfriendly toward the Ayanashi.

Sierra: Age 16

A girl living in Grotto 68. Lost her parents at a young age. Supports herself and her brother by working at a local diner, along with the support of her neighbors.

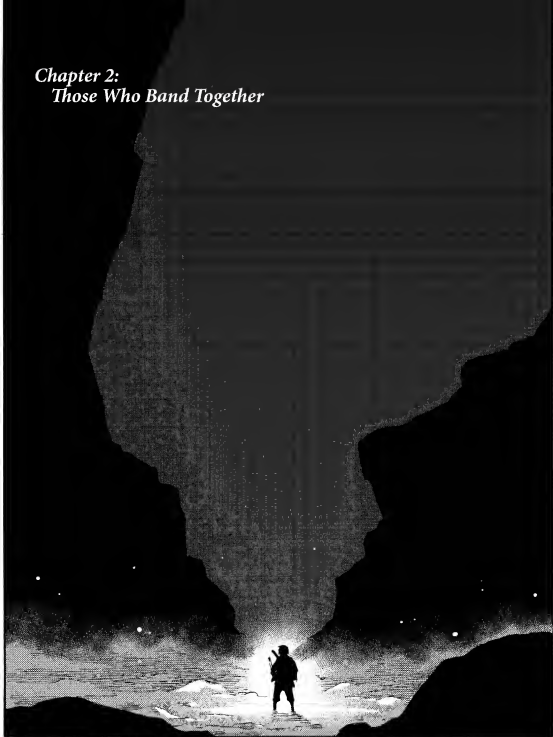


Torin: Age 11

Wise beyond his years, he supports his diligent older sister from the shadows. He's already grown used to Sierra's occasional outrageous outbursts.



*Chapter 2:
Those Who Band Together*





***I CAN FINALLY
BE ALONE HERE.***







BADDUM





BADUM
B K



HAH...
B
A
K
D
U
M

FLASH
H











RICO'S
KILLER...



**"THE
ONE-
EYED
MAN."**

**I'M GONNA
HUNT HIM
DOWN AND
KILL HIM!**



YOU HAVE
TO KNOW
SOMETHING,
RIGHT?

I'LL TAKE
WHATEVER
YOU'VE GOT
ON HIM.

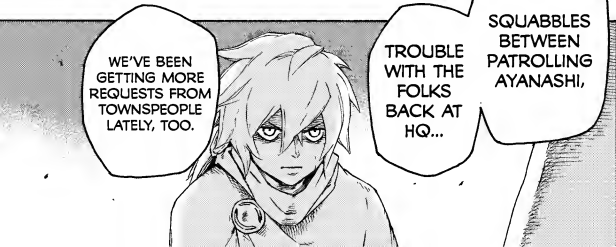


TRUE...



THANKS
TO THAT,
I COME
ACROSS
ALL SORTS
OF TRIVIAL
INFOR-
MATION.

THIS AREA
IS UNDER
MY JURIS-
DICTION.

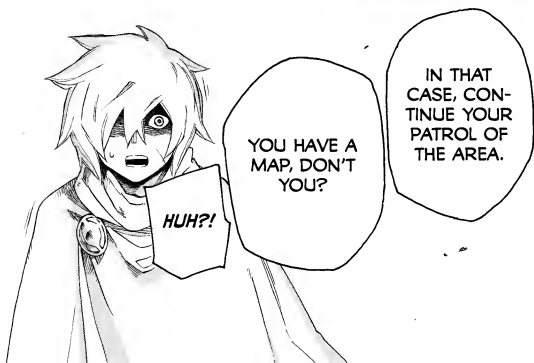


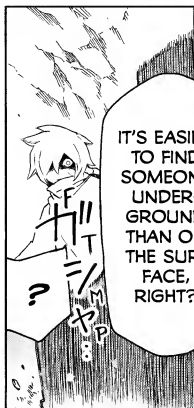
WE'VE BEEN
GETTING MORE
REQUESTS FROM
TOWNSPEOPLE
LATELY, TOO.

TROUBLE
WITH THE
FOLKS
BACK AT
HQ...

SQUABBLES
BETWEEN
PATROLLING
AYANASHI,



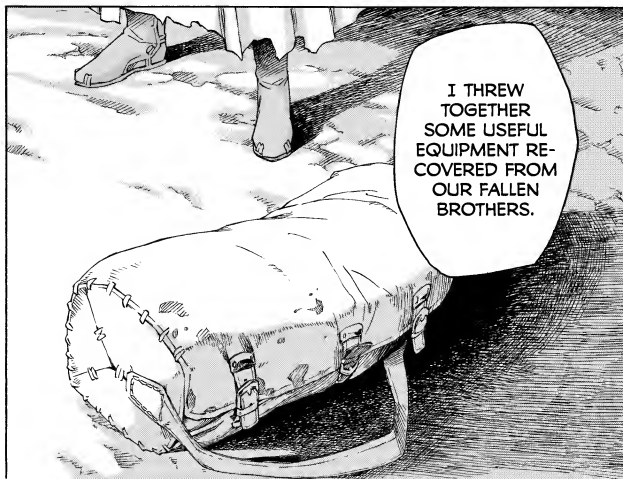




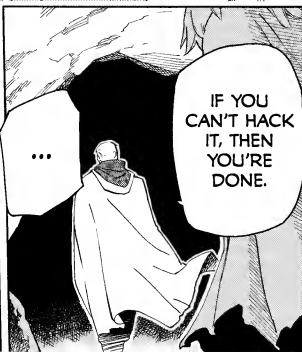
IT'S EASIER
TO FIND
SOMEONE
UNDER-
GROUND
THAN ON
THE SUR-
FACE,
RIGHT?



I
DON'T
HAVE
TIME
FOR-



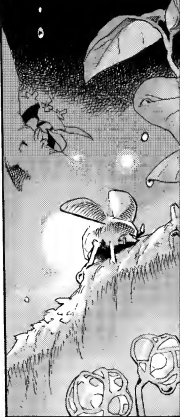
I THREW
TOGETHER
SOME USEFUL
EQUIPMENT RE-
COVERED FROM
OUR FALLEN
BROTHERS.



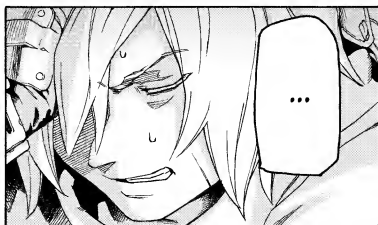








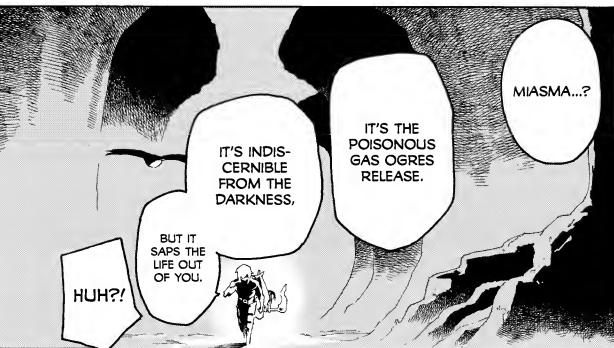
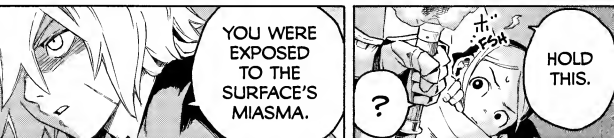








↳ Doesn't want to touch her.







THAT'S RIGHT...
YOU'RE AN
AYANASHI,
AREN'T YOU,
MISTER?!

YOU
ARE,
RIGHT?!

OUR
TOWN
IS-

PLEASE!
WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP!

...AH!

TOWN!

G
R
A
B

ト
ン
ノ
リ
ッ



EVERY-
ONE'S BEEN
RUNNING
AROUND,
LOOKING FOR
SOMEWHERE
TO HIDE.

OGRES
SUDDENLY
SHOWED
UP IN OUR
TOWN.

MY
NAME'S
AURA.

I MANAGED
TO ESCAPE
THROUGH A
VENT, BUT MY
DAD AND THE
OTHERS ARE
STILL...









HEY, BRAT!
DON'T EVER
DO THAT
AGAIN UN-
LESS YOU
WANNA D-



TCH...





FROM THE
LOOKS OF
IT, WE'RE
TOO LATE.

...LET'S
HEAD
BACK.



?



BESIDES,
THERE'S NO
REASON FOR
ME TO STAY
HERE IF I CAN'T
GET ANY INFO
ON "HIM."



BAM!!

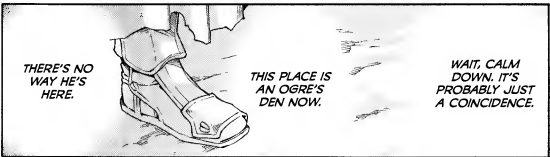


THAT
CORPSE...



COULD HE
BE HERE?

THAT'S
THE SAME
WOUND AS
RICO'S...



THERE'S NO
WAY HE'S
HERE.

THIS PLACE IS
AN OGRE'S
DEN NOW.

WAIT, CALM
DOWN. IT'S
PROBABLY JUST
A COINCIDENCE.



BUT...



HELP ME
FIND MY
DAD...

PLEASE
...

SNIFE

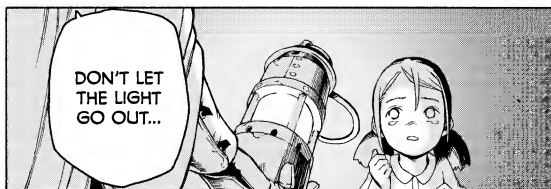
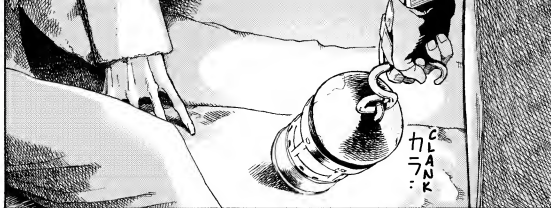


HE
PUNCHED
THROUGH
SOME-
ONE WITH
HIS BARE
HANDS...



...CAN I
BE SURE IF
HE'S EVEN
HUMAN?







H
U
G
:

THERE'S
NO SENSE
WORRY-
ING OVER
NOTHING.
I NEED
TO CHECK
FOR ANY
CLUES...



SHIV
SHIV
SHIV

GUH...
HEY...

MAYBE
NOT...
THAT
CLOSE.

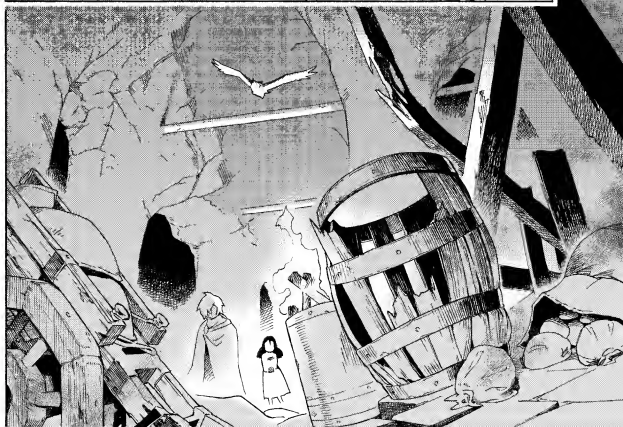
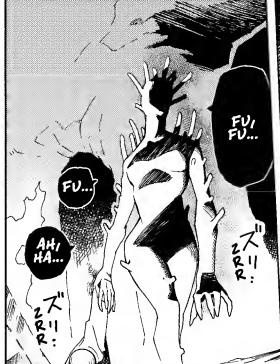


SHIV
SHIV
SHIV



SCRIPT













...HUH?

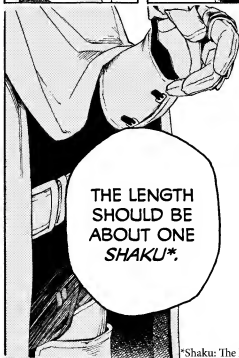
HERE.



SNATCH



?! THWACK



THE LENGTH
SHOULD BE
ABOUT ONE
*SHAKU**.



FROM
HANDLE
TO TIP,

*Shaku: The length from the elbow to the wrist (about 30 cm).



OR EVEN
EXPLO-
SIVES.

WHETH-
ER IT BE
GUNS,

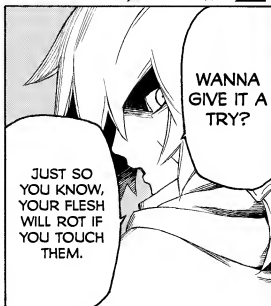


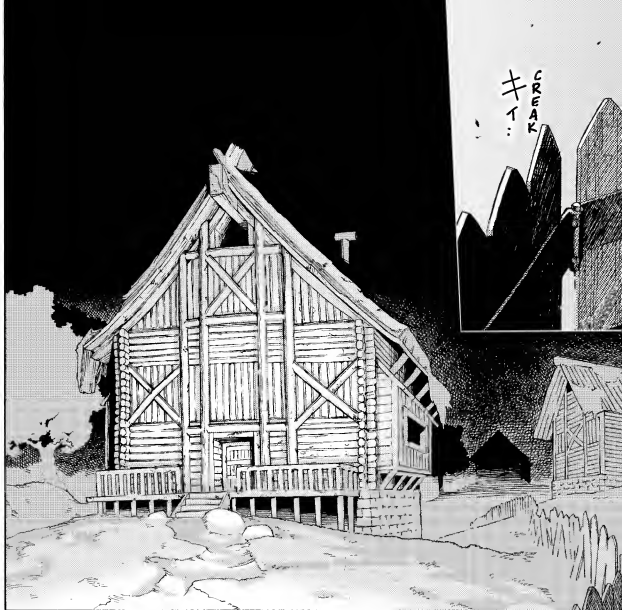
WHAT
...?

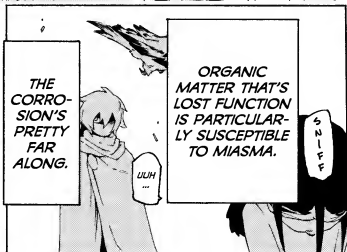
OGRES
CAN'T BE
HURT BY
WEAPONS
LONGER
THAN THAT.

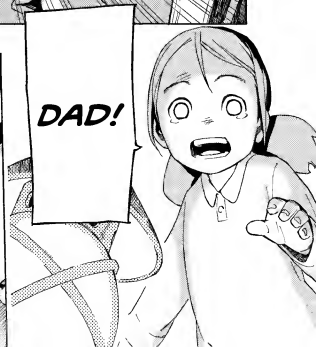
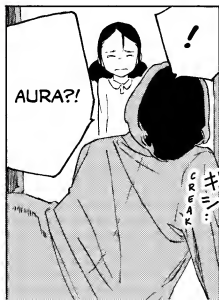
?

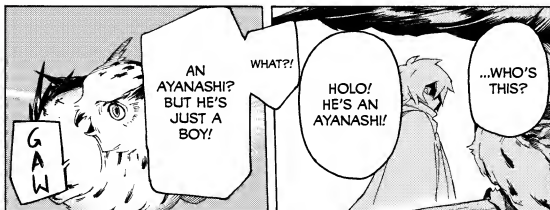
















F-OOOM

CHIK...

CHIK-
CHIK...

AN
OGRE,
TOO?

IS
THAT...

IT'S
HUGE...



GUESS
THAT
BODY WE
FOUND
AT THE
ENTRANCE
WAS HIS
DOING.



THAT'S...



DID IT MOW
DOWN THE
HOUSE WITH
THOSE LONG
FORELEGS...?



TCH...

HOLO!
OVER
THERE!



BEAR

WOLF

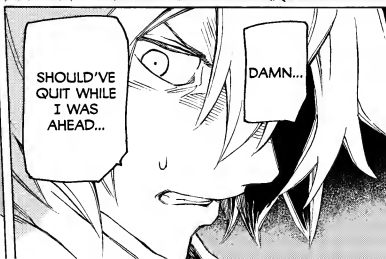
WOLF



HURRY!

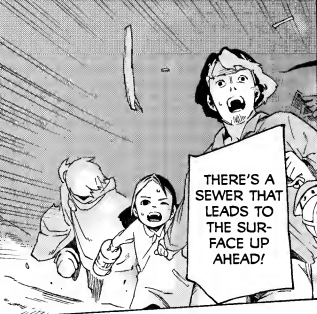
HEY!
THIS
WAY!

?!



SHOULD'VE
QUIT WHILE
I WAS
AHEAD...

DAMN...



THERE'S A
SEWER THAT
LEADS TO
THE SUR-
FACE UP
AHEAD!



D
R
S
H



W
H
A



FLOOD
MANAGE-
MENT IS
MY JOB!

ARE YOU
SURE?!



K
K

M
K

G
R
K





DRF!!
DRF!!

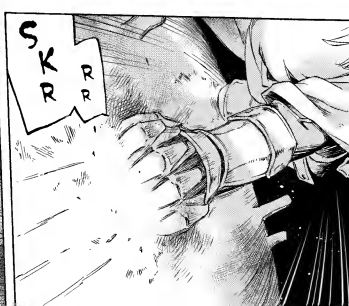
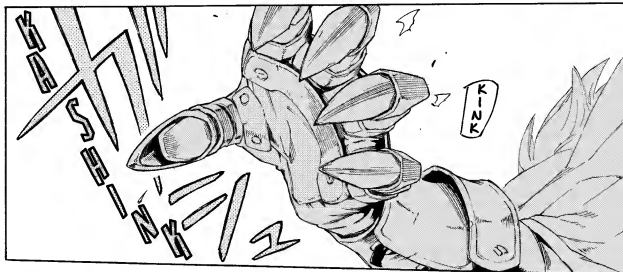


W H A A A ?!

HUH
! ...?

HANG
ON
TIGHT!

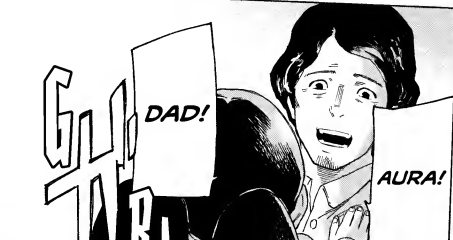
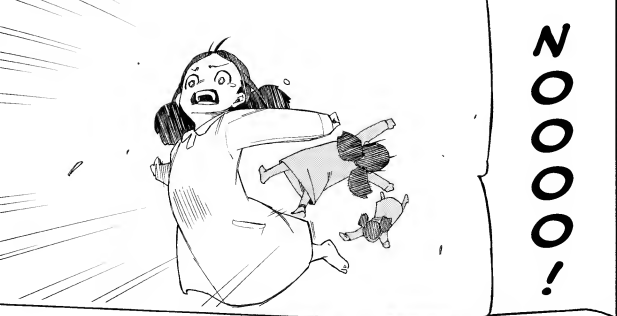
HOLO!













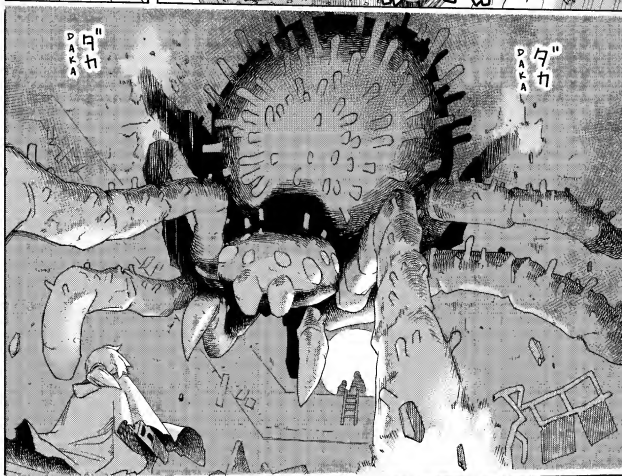
HOLO!



THUD

GUH!

CLANG



DAKA
タハ

タハ
DAKA



...NO CHOICE
BUT TO TAKE
IT DOWN
HERE, HUH?

ホ
フ
フ
フ

IT BLOCKED
MY ESCAPE
ROUTE...



AND EVEN IF
I'M LUCKY
ENOUGH TO
GET CLOSE,
I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN IN TOO
MUCH MIA-
MA.

I CAN'T
EVEN GET
A DECENT
FOOT-
HOLD.

BUT HOW?



AND EVEN IF
I'M LUCKY
ENOUGH TO
GET CLOSE,
I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN IN TOO
MUCH MIA-
MA.

I CAN'T
EVEN GET
A DECENT
FOOT-
HOLD.

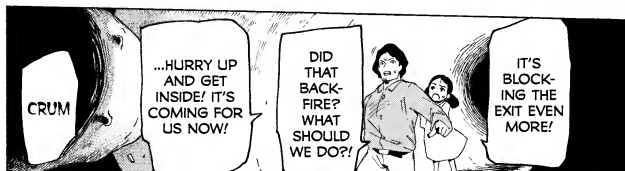
BUT HOW?

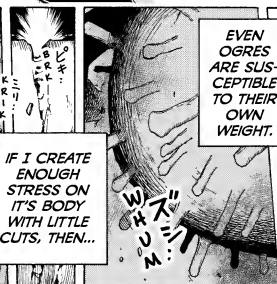


AND EVEN IF
I'M LUCKY
ENOUGH TO
GET CLOSE,
I'VE ALREADY
TAKEN IN TOO
MUCH MIA-
MA.

I CAN'T
EVEN GET
A DECENT
FOOT-
HOLD.

BUT HOW?



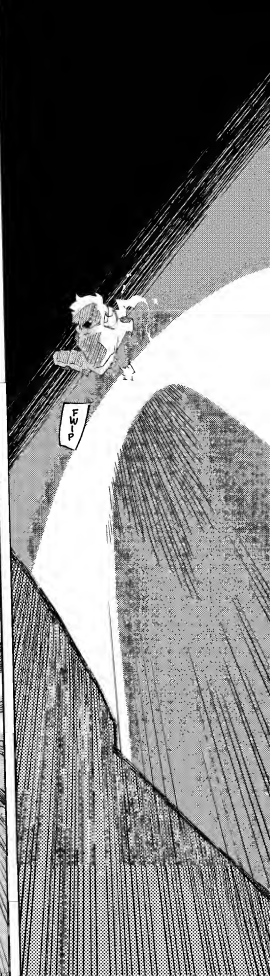
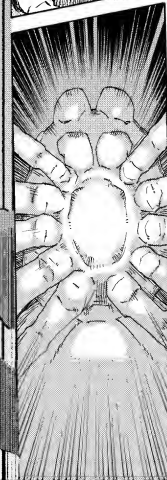
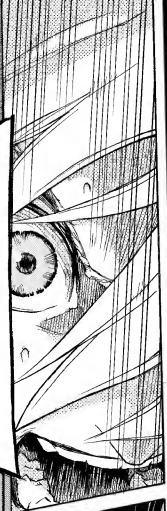


THIS!

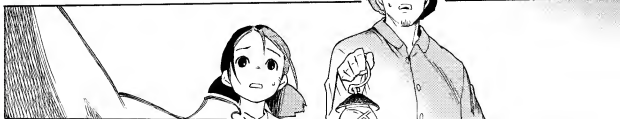
WHOO!

EAT...

OM!







WHAT
A
WASTE
OF
TIME.

SO, IT WAS
JUST A BUM
LEAD...

#11
GRIT



...WHAT-
EVER.
IT'S JUST
UNTIL WE
REACH
TOWN.



HUH?

...DOES
IT
HURT?



I'VE
NEVER
DONE IT
BEFORE,
THOUGH
...

I'M PRETTY
SURE TOWNS
WILL ACCEPT
REFUGEES
AS LONG AS
AN AYANASHI
VOUCHES FOR
THEM.



...LET
ME ASK
YOU ONE
THING.

REALLY?!
TH-THANK
YOU!

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
WE COULD
EVER REPAY
YOU!





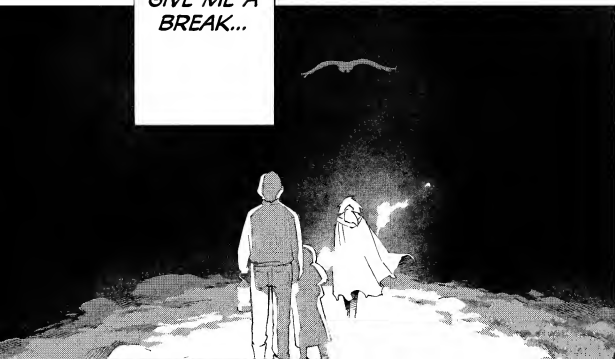
...TCH.



LET'S
GO.



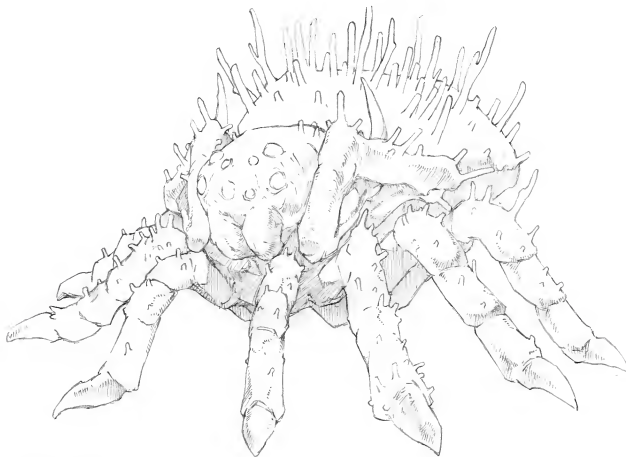
GIVE ME A
BREAK...



Ogres

Monsters that wander the surface.

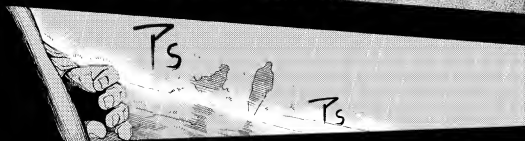
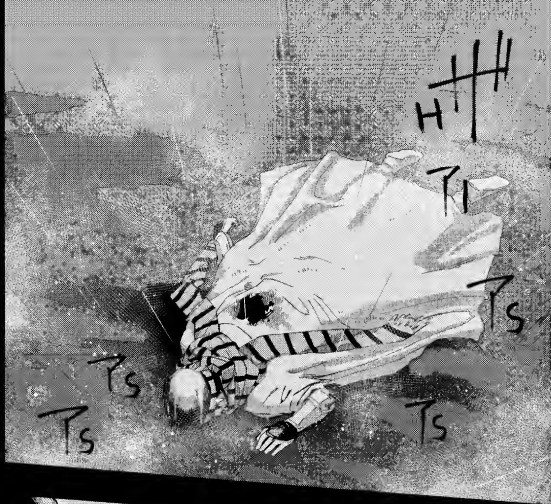
Despite years of research headed by the ayanashi headquarters, ogres remain shrouded in mystery. For reasons unknown, they're seemingly impervious to physical attacks, and release a miasma that rots organic matter. Due to their overall alien nature, ayanashi often come up with their own interpretations of these monsters, likening them to lifeforms from another dimension, or divine beings from another plane of existence.



Sodemaki

A spider-type ogre that infiltrated Grotto 92. A low-level ogre with fairly weak miasma; however, its long, jointed forelegs can stab targets from great distances, making for deadly weapons.

A relatively large ogre at three to four meters tall. When stretched out, its length expands over ten meters.





AH...

**BAS-
TARD!**

YOU...

...KUH.

?!

...OH?

A

B

M!

**FW
O
O**

CRACK

GAH...

SNAP

CRACK

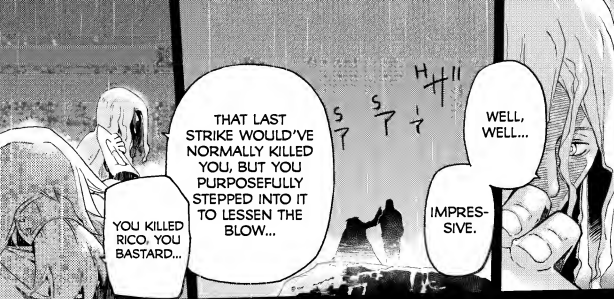


WHAT'S
WITH...THAT
POWER?!



IT FEELS
LIKE HE
SLAMMED
ME WITH
A LOG OR
SOME-
THING...





YOU KILLED
RICO. YOU
BASTARD...

THAT LAST
STRIKE WOULD'VE
NORMALLY KILLED
YOU, BUT YOU
PURPOSEFULLY
STEPPED INTO IT
TO LESSEN THE
BLOW...

WELL,
WELL...

IMPRES-
SIVE.



HE WAS THE
ONLY FAMI-
LY I HAD...

WE'VE
ALWAYS
BEEN TO-
GETHER...



JUST
LIKE
THAT!

AND
YOU
TOOK
HIM
FROM
ME,



YOU
DAMN
MON-
STER...

ERG...

YOU...

...HEH.

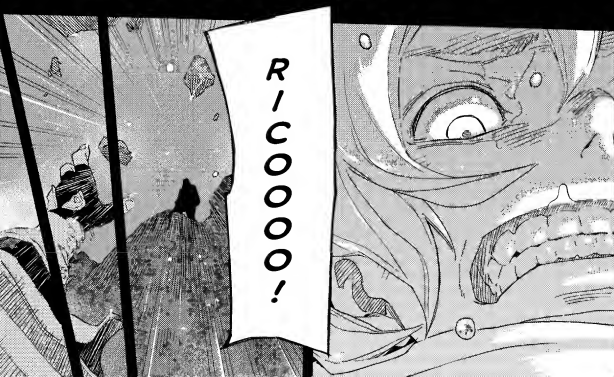
!

YOU
WOUND
ME.

BUT
IN THAT
CASE,

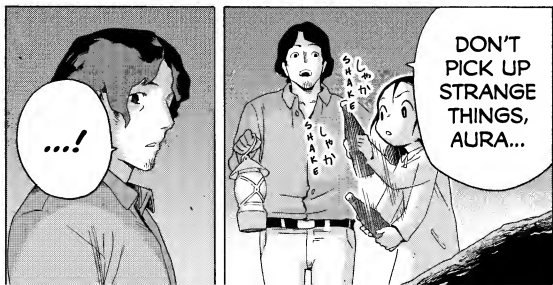
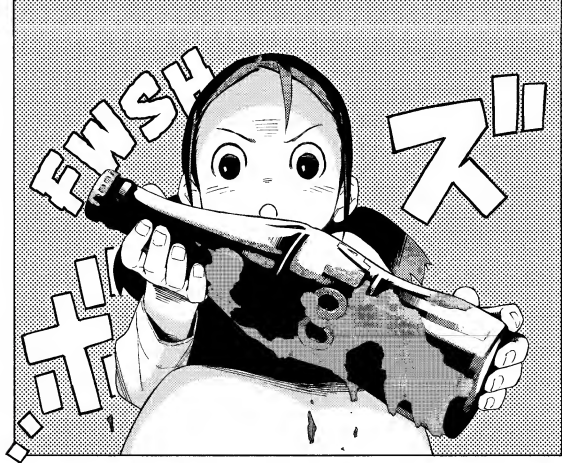
AREN'T YOU
A MONSTER,
TOO?



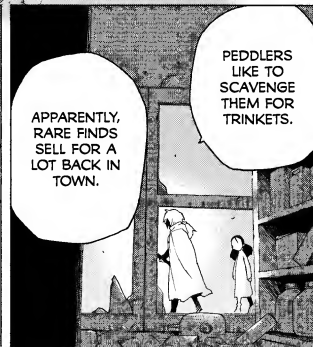


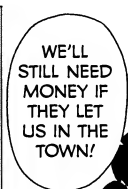
Chapter 3:
Monster





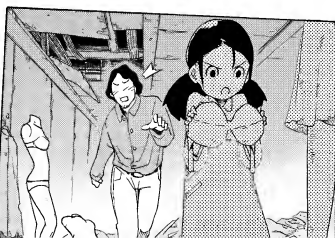
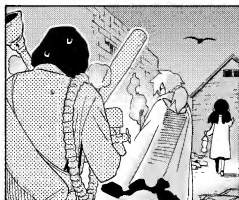






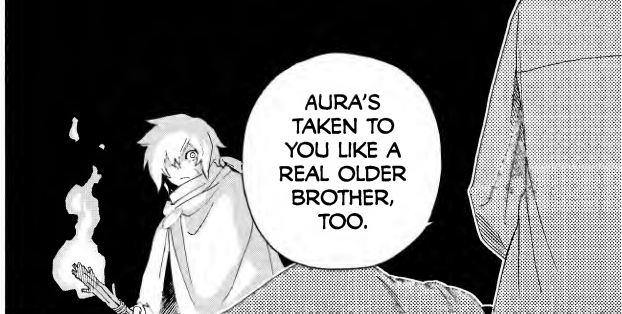
F
W
I
P
L







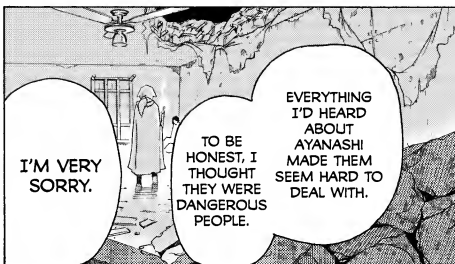




AURA'S
TAKEN TO
YOU LIKE A
REAL OLDER
BROTHER,
TOO.



...



I'M VERY
SORRY.

TO BE
HONEST, I
THOUGHT
THEY WERE
DANGEROUS
PEOPLE.

EVERYTHING
I'D HEARD
ABOUT
AYANASHI
MADE THEM
SEEM HARD TO
DEAL WITH.

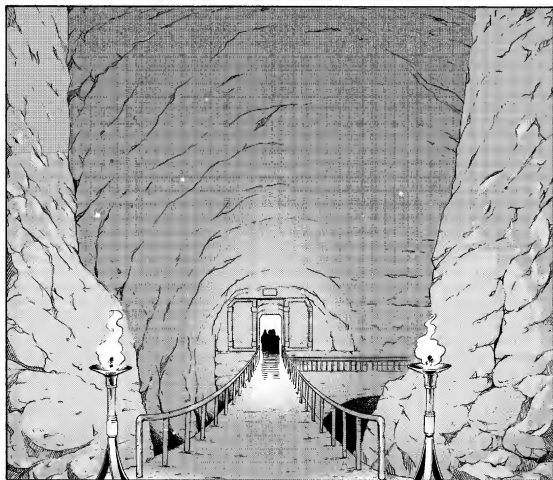
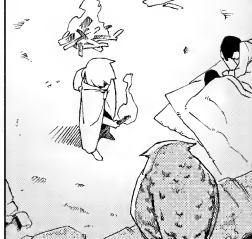


SORRY,
I'M
GOING TO
GET SOME
SLEEP,
TOO.



YAWN...

WHAT-
EVER...
I'M
NOT...



IF YOU WISH
TO ENTER THE
TOWN THEN I'LL
NEED TO CHECK
YOUR BELONG-
INGS FIR-

AS I'VE
SAID,

UMM...



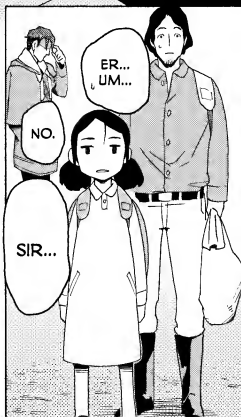
NO.

**YOU'RE
HOLD-
ING UP
THE
LINE!**

**HEY!
WHAT
THE
HELL'S
YOUR
PROB-
LEM?!**



...



ER...
UM...

NO.

SIR...



SORRY, BUT
NO ONE'S
ALLOWED TO
LOOK INSIDE
THIS.

HURRY
UP AND
SHOW
HER
YOUR
BAG!

I HAVE
AN
APPOINT-
MENT
TO KEEP,
Y'KNOW!



THOSE
ARE THE
RULES.



Yeah. Talk
about a
dirty look.

HUH...?



HEY, THAT
CLASP...

HM?





YOU'D BETTER WATCH YOUR TONGUE, BUDDY.

?



BEG YOUR PARDON?

I can't get through.

YOU'RE IN THE WAY.

CAN YOU MOVE, THEN?



I'M AN "ELITE"!

AND UN-LIKE YOU PATROL "CHUMPS,"



FOR YOUR INFORMATION,

I JUST SO HAPPEN TO BE AN AYA-NASHI, TOO!



I'M ONLY LINGUING UP BECAUSE I HAVE TO SINCE I'M STILL AN APPRENTICE...

MUMBLE

MUMBLE



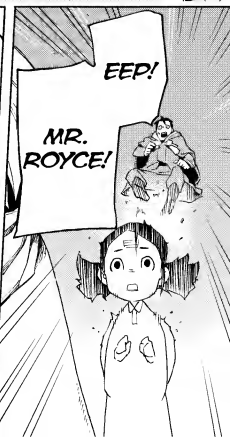
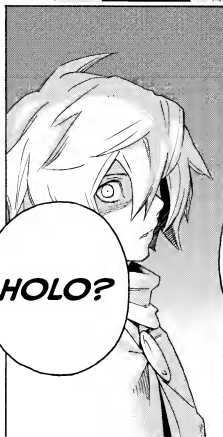
DON'T SCREW WITH ME!

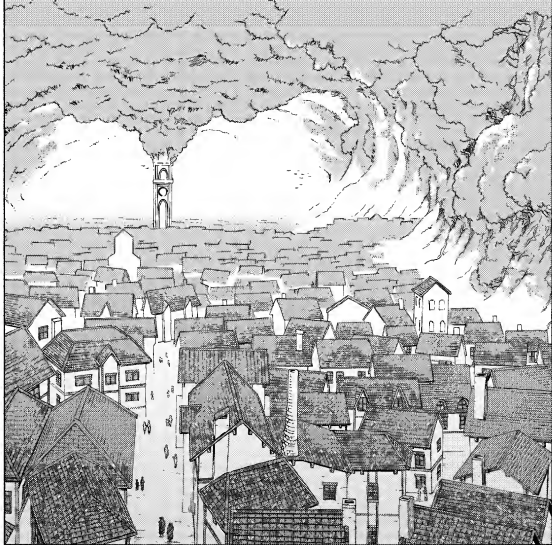
He said it again...

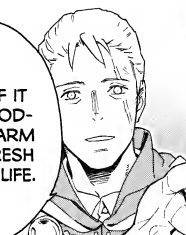
...BUT I'M AN "ELITE," GOT THAT?



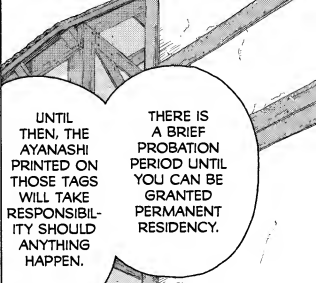








THINK OF IT
AS A GOOD-
LUCK CHARM
FOR A FRESH
START IN LIFE.



UNTIL
THEN, THE
AYANASHI
PRINTED ON
THOSE TAGS
WILL TAKE
RESPONSIBIL-
ITY SHOULD
ANYTHING
HAPPEN.

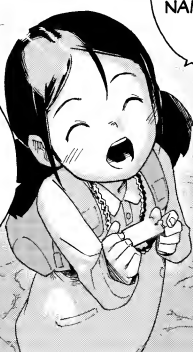
THERE IS
A BRIEF
PROBATION
PERIOD UNTIL
YOU CAN BE
GRANTED
PERMANENT
RESIDENCY.



Busi-
ness
Smile

IT'S
GONNA
BE A
LONG
ROAD...

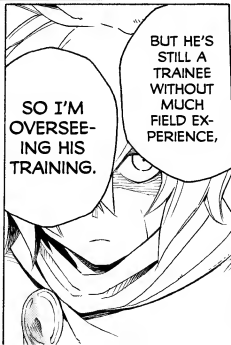
A FRESH
START,
HUH?

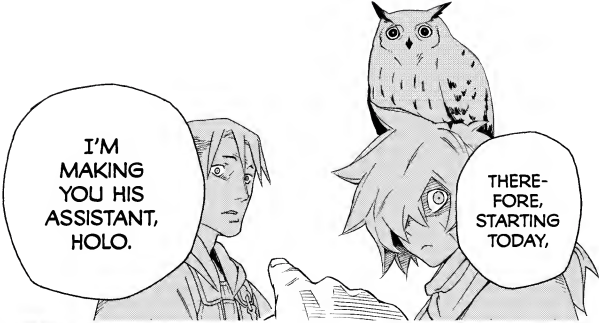


YOURS,
TOO,
HOLO!

IT HAS MY
NAME ON IT!

LOOK!



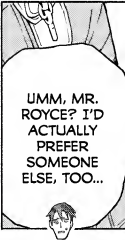


I'M
MAKING
YOU HIS
ASSISTANT,
HOLO.

THERE-
FORE,
STARTING
TODAY,



WHAT?!



UMM, MR.
ROYCE? I'D
ACTUALLY
PREFER
SOMEONE
ELSE, TOO...

MAKE
SOME-
ONE
ELSE
HIS
LAP-
DOG!

THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN YOU
HAVE TO
DRAG ME
INTO IT!

HE CAN'T BUILD
EXPERIENCE AS
AN OVERSEER
WITHOUT SUB-
ORDINATES OF
HIS OWN, NOW,
CAN HE?

THAT'S
AN OR-
DER.

YOU'VE
GOTTA
BE KID-
DING!
WHY
SHOULD
I-



HE'S ONE
OF THE
BRANCH'S
"GRUNTS,"
RIGHT?

NOT TO
MENTION,

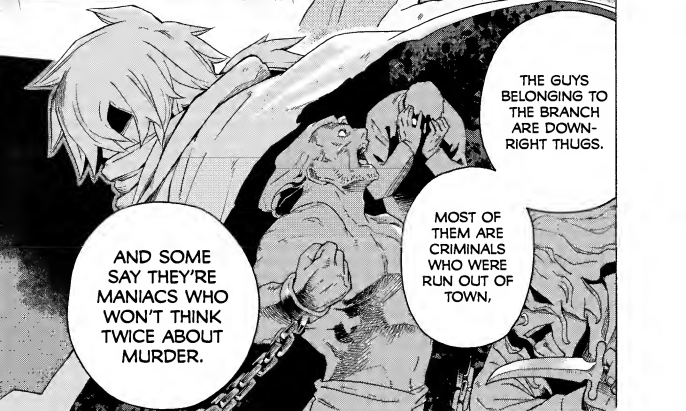
HE HIT ME
OUT OF NO-
WHERE, AND
HE DOESN'T
SHOW YOU
ANY RE-
SPECT...

ARE YOU
SURE IT'S A
GOOD IDEA
TO INVOLVE
HIM IN THIS
AFFAIR?





UNLIKE US
OVERSEERS
DISPATCHED BY
HEADQUAR-
TERS,



THE GUYS
BELONGING TO
THE BRANCH
ARE DOWN-
RIGHT THUGS.

AND SOME
SAY THEY'RE
MANIACS WHO
WON'T THINK
TWICE ABOUT
MURDER.

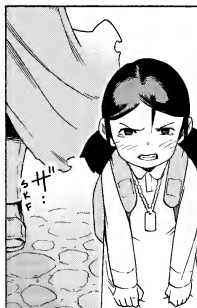
MOST OF
THEM ARE
CRIMINALS
WHO WERE
RUN OUT OF
TOWN,



HUH?



ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT
HOLO?





...EVEN
BEGGED
FOR THEIR
LIVES.

SOME
OF
THEM...

AND I
HAVEN'T
KILLED
JUST ONE
OR TWO
PEOPLE,
EITHER.

IT'S NO
JOKE.

AREN'T YOU A MONSTER, TOO?

...PISSES
ME OFF!

IT
REALLY...

DON'T
ACT LIKE
YOU
KNOW
ANYTHING
ABOUT
ME...

I'M NOT
THE KIND
OF PERSON
YOU GUYS
THINK I AM.





WHEW...
LOOK AT
ALL THESE
PEOPLE.

The
build-
ings are
classy,
too.

IT'S
NOTHING
LIKE OUR
TOWN...

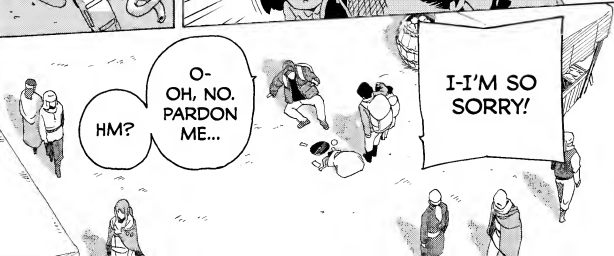
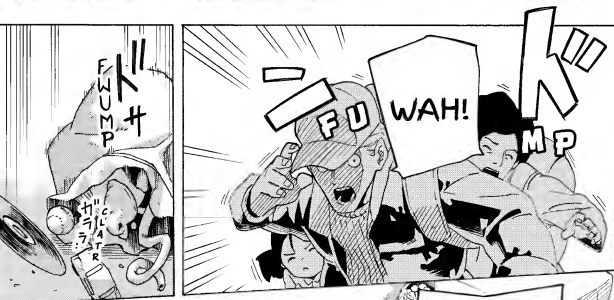


OH,
LOOK!
IT'S A
MARKET!



MAYBE WE
CAN FIND
SOMEONE
TO BUY THIS
JUNK.

LET'S GO
TAKE A
LOOK.







**HOLLOW
LAN-
CORSE,**

**AGE
16.**

CLACK
チヤ

**BUT HE
DETESTS
PEOPLE.**

**THE KID'S
TALENTED,**



HE'S
ALWAYS BEEN
REGARDED AS
A DANGER,
EVEN AMONG
THE AYANASHI.

DUE TO HIS
BRUTAL AND
RUTHLESS PER-
SONALITY,

HE'S
ACTUALLY
MELLOWED
OUT RE-
CENTLY.

NOW,
NOW.

Break
Time

...SO, HE *IS*
TROUBLE.

BY
THE WAY,
LACHAO.

Can he
even tell the
difference
between
roads and
roofs...?

Flashback

YOU CALL
THAT MEL-
LOW?

JUMP
だーん..

...



UHH...



HUH?

WHAT WERE
YOU TAUGHT
MEMBERS OF
THE BRANCH'S
JOBS ARE?

...AND
OGRE
EXTERMI-
NATION.



PATROL...



THEY'RE EACH
GIVEN MAPS
OF SEPARATE
AREAS TO
PATROL,

ALL OF
WHICH ARE
CENTERED
AROUND
TOWNS.

THEY GO
AROUND MAK-
ING SURE THE
ROADS ARE
SAFE, RIGHT?

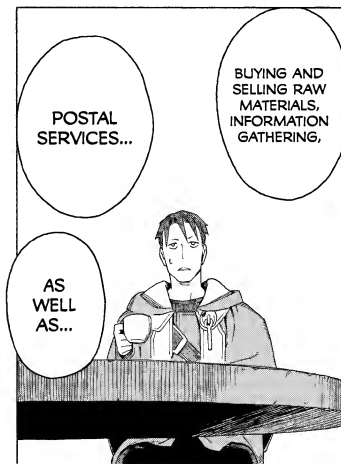
FOR THE
MERCHANT
GUILDS OR
WHATEVER.

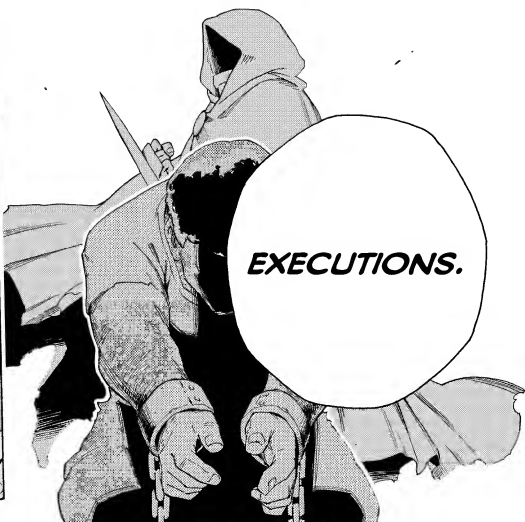
105

92

68

12







WHILE HOLO
STAYED ON
THE SURFACE,
AVOIDING
CONTACT
WITH PEOPLE.

HIS LITTLE
BROTHER WAS
ALWAYS THE
ONE WHO
TOOK JOBS IN
TOWN,

HOWEVER...



...HE WOULD
TAKE ON IN
HIS BROTHER-
S PLACE.

EXECU-
TIONS
WERE THE
ONLY RE-
QUESTS...



WELL,
THEN THAT
LITTLE
BROTHER
DIED THE
OTHER
DAY...

...



BUT...

WHY
WOULD
THEY DO
SOME-
THING AS
NASTY AS
EXECU-
TIONS?

7"5
:p



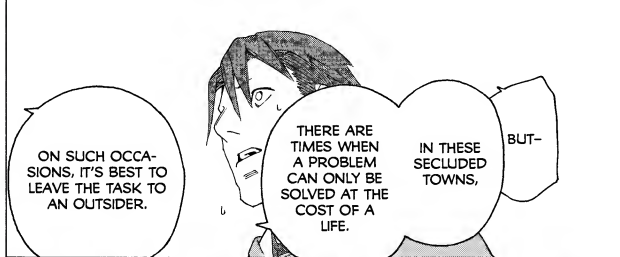
IT'S THE ONE
REQUEST THEY
CAN'T TURN
DOWN.

THEY'RE
BOUND BY
AYANASHI
CODE.



MY GUESS
IS HE DIDN'T
WANT HIS LI-
TLE BROTHER
TO DIRTY HIS
HANDS.







**THAT'S
OUR
JOB...**

**...AS
"OVER-
SEERS."**

THEREFORE,
WE NEED
PEOPLE WHO
WILL SUPER-
VISE AND
REGULATE
THEM.



YOU'RE THE
SAME AGE,
SO YOU
SHOULD
GET ALONG
JUST FINE,
RIGHT?

**...ARE YOU
BEING SERI-
OUS?**

He's
still up
there...



**KEEP AN
EYE ON
YOUR
PARTNER.**



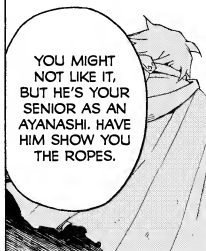
WELL,
THEN.
I HAVE
SOME
BUSINESS
TO
ATTEND
TO.



DON'T BE
LATE NEXT
TIME.

R/S
L#

I WROTE
DOWN YOUR
ACCOMMO-
DATIONS ON
THIS.



YOU MIGHT
NOT LIKE IT,
BUT HE'S YOUR
SENIOR AS AN
AYANASHI. HAVE
HIM SHOW YOU
THE ROPES.



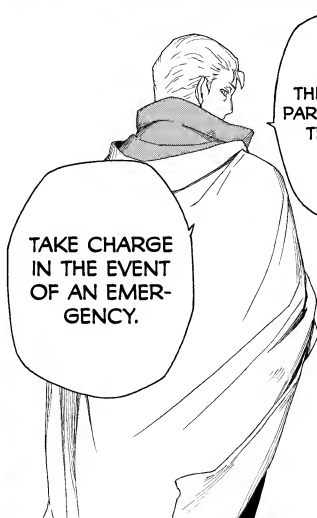
DON'T
FORGET...

OH, AND
ONE MORE
THING.



UH...

...YES,
SIR.



TAKE CHARGE
IN THE EVENT
OF AN EMER-
GENCY.

THIS IS ALSO
PART OF YOUR
TRAINING.

//
/ | F
L
P
:



WOW... I
CAN SEE
THE WHOLE
TOWN!



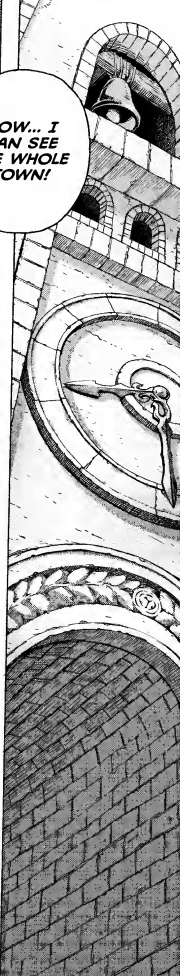
ARE
YOU
SURE
ABOUT
THIS?



ABSOLUTELY!

These
are gold
coins,
you know.

I PROBABLY
SHOULDN'T
SAY THIS, BUT
IT WAS JUST
A BUNCH OF
JUNK...





ISN'T IT
JUST
LOVELY?

...SURE.

THIS
HAPPENS
TO BE AN
ARTIFACT,
TOO.



ARTIFACTS
ARE IN-
CREDIBLY
VALUABLE!

AND I'M
SOMETHING
OF A COL-
LECTOR.



ゴ"R
V/T
:L



IF YOU
HAVE ANY-
THING ELSE,
I'D BE MORE
THAN HAPPY
TO BUY!



WILL YOU
SELL THAT
TO ME?



...ISN'T
FOR SALE.

THIS...



OH...
UMM...

BUT I MUST
ASK, WHERE
DID YOU
FIND ALL OF
THESE?

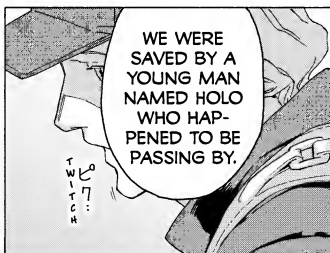


I SEE.
THAT'S
TOO BAD.



OUR
TOWN WAS
ATTACKED
BY OGRES
TWO DAYS
AGO...

ACTUALLY,
WE ONLY
JUST MOVED
HERE TODAY.



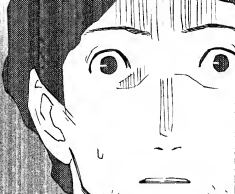
SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING ME ABOUT HIM.



**THAT'S
RIGHT...**

SUCKER

!!



**ONE
OF HIS
EYES...**

**...HASN'T
MOVED
THIS
WHOLE
TIME.**

**HE
SURVIVED,
DID HE?**

SO,





IF YOU
NEED A
BABYSITTER,
THEN FIND
SOMEONE
ELSE.

GIVE IT A
REST.

WHAT-
EVER...
THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER
RIGHT
NOW...

I'M THE
SUPERIOR
OFFICER
HERE...

DAMN
IT ALL...

HUFF

HUFF





LET'S GO
APOLOGIZE
TO THAT
GIRL!



FORGET
ABOUT
THAT.



WELL,
SO DO
I.

YOU FEEL
BAD FOR
HOW THAT
TURNED
OUT,
RIGHT?



*I'M IN
A BAD
MOOD
RIGHT
NOW.*



...ZAT
RIGHT?



*GET
LOST.
YOU'RE
AN EYE-
SORE.*



LOOK,
YOU'RE NOT
A KID. QUIT
BEING SO
STUB-
BORN AND-



I CAN'T
STAND
SMUG
ASSHOLES
LIKE YOU...

WHAT A
COINCIDENCE.
ME,
TOO.

WHY
DON'T WE
PICK UP
WHERE WE
LEFT OFF?







AGH!
THAT
STINGS!

ERG...





THEY
SHOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO!

OGRES
ALMOST NEVER
FIGURE OUT
WHERE TOWNS
ARE!

ARE YOU
STUPID?



TO
INVESTIGATE
THE LINK
BETWEEN
THE RECENT
OGRE AT-
TACKS!

THAT'S WHY
MR. ROYCE
AND I CAME
HERE IN THE
FIRST PLACE!

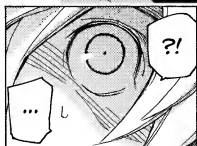
KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PARTNER.



...SO, THAT'S
WHAT HE
MEANT.

...YOU JUST
HAPPEN TO
SHOW UP
WHENEVER
THERE'S AN
ATTACK.

IT'S NOT
THAT...





I'M
THE ONE
ATTRACT-
ING THE
OGRES
...?

THAT'S IM-
POSSIBLE...



AND WHAT IS
THIS NAGGING
FEELING?

IT ALMOST
FEELS LIKE
WHEN—

B
A
K
!

IT ALMOST
FEELS LIKE
WHEN—

B
A
K
!

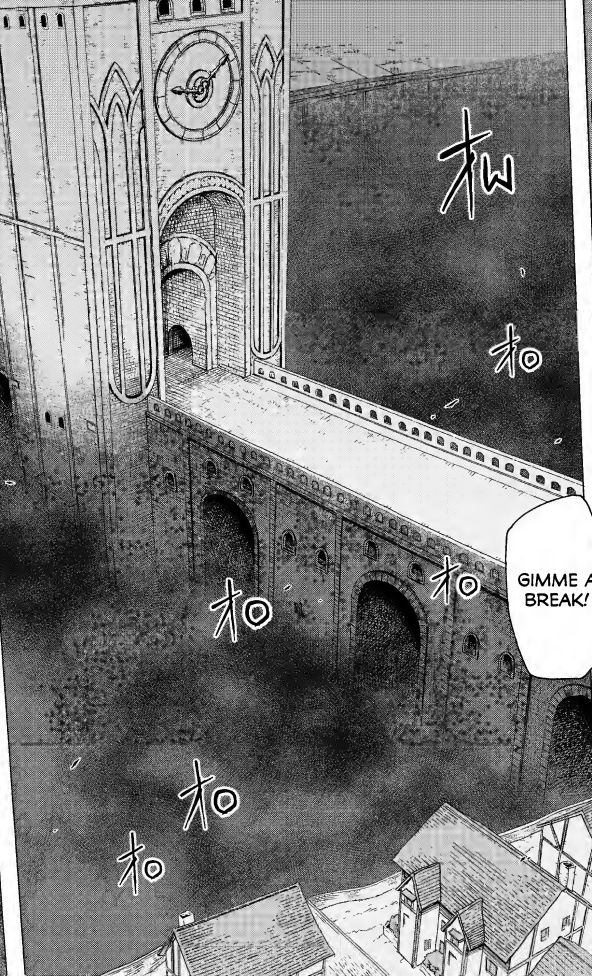
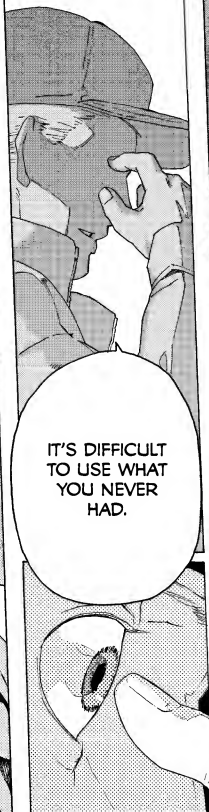
IT ALMOST
FEELS LIKE
WHEN—

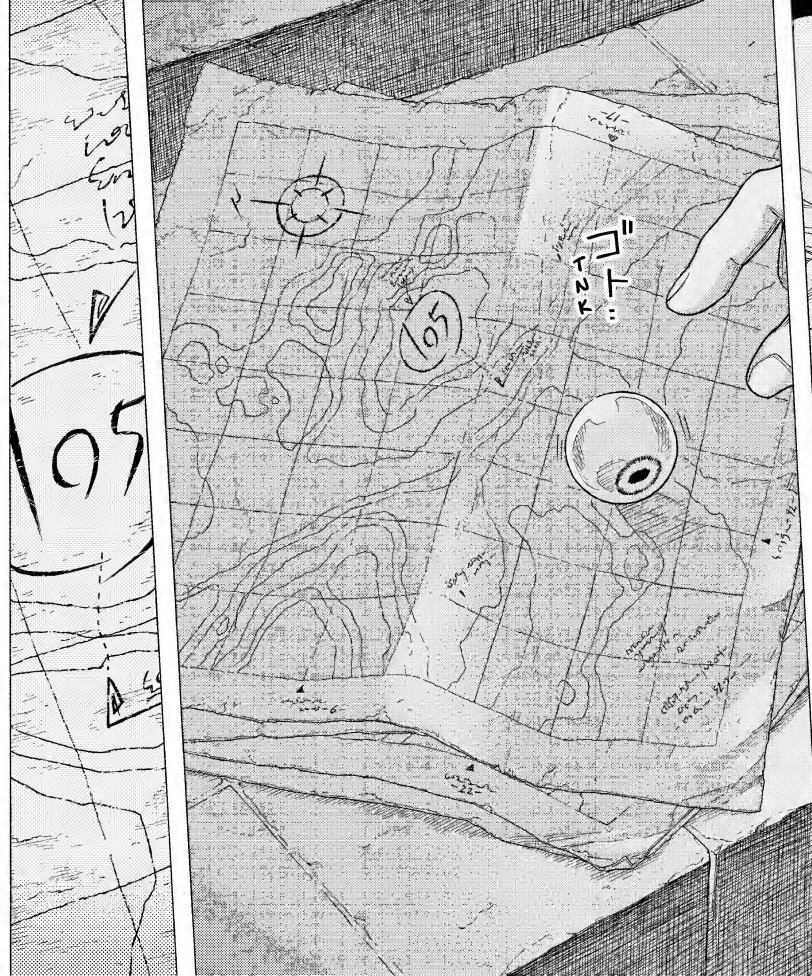
B
A
K
!













NOW,

***SHOW
THIS EYE...***



**...THE
WAY
"DEATH"
IS
BORN.**

To be continued...

Ayanashi Weapons

While ogres can only be harmed at close range, their miasma also becomes more effective the closer one gets. To combat this, weapons are infused with the power of fire, providing a much-needed "shield" against the miasma.

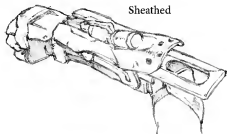
THEY'RE
"DEATH"
INCAR-
NATE.

Holo's Sword: Nameless, Phoenix Talon

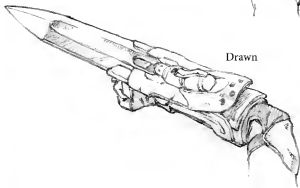
Holo's weapon of choice.

Ayanashi weapons come in many forms; however, the Phoenix Talon sets itself apart in terms of durability and striking force.

Holo's sword uses a mechanism in which, as a lever is pulled, a fixed amount of oil is sprayed onto the blade, allowing him to reapply more oil as needed once the oil on the blade has burned off. The feeding mechanism uses cartridges that can be popped out and replaced when oil runs out.



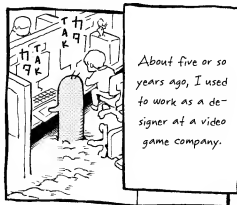
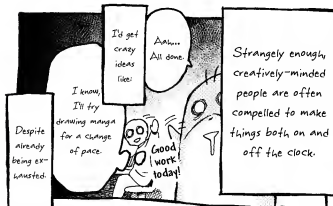
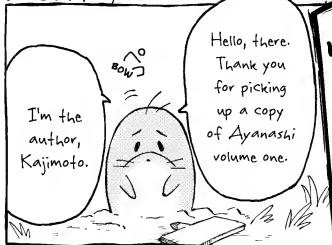
Sheathed



Drawn

AYANASHI

Doodle Manga 1





Cut through despair with your scorching blade!

Preview



In order to save Aura and the others from the ogre attack, Holo and Lachao brandish their blazing blades. However, they're gravely outnumbered... Will they be able to save the town and its inhabitants?!



AYANASHI

Yukihiko Kujimoto

VOLUME 2

Ayanashi 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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